

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A plastic substrate for magnetic recording media, said plastic substrate being manufactured by injection molding a thermoplastic norbornene resin dried by a method comprising:

drying said thermoplastic norbornene resin under ~~at least one of a vacuum, and~~ a vacuum and ordinary pressure; ~~and~~ wherein

said drying removes atmospheric gas components and low-boiling-point organic components contained in said thermoplastic norbornene resin.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A plastic substrate for magnetic recording media, of claim 5 wherein:

said drying under ordinary pressure is conducted at a temperature between 80 and 120°C; and

said drying under vacuum is conducted under a degree of vacuum of 20 Pa or lower at a temperature between 80 and 120°C.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A plastic substrate for magnetic recording media, of claim 5 wherein:

the thermoplastic norbornene resin contains, after said drying, N₂ of 20 ppm or lower, O₂ of 20 ppm or lower, H₂O of 1 ppm or lower, low-boiling-point aliphatic organic components of 20 ppb or lower in total, and low-boiling-point aromatic organic components of 20 ppb or lower in total.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A plastic substrate for magnetic recording media, of claim 6 wherein:

the thermoplastic norbornene resin contains, after the drying, N₂ of 20 ppm or lower, O₂ of 20 ppm or lower, H₂O of 1 ppm or lower, low-boiling-point aliphatic organic components of 20 ppb or lower in total, and low-boiling-point aromatic organic components of 20 ppb or lower in total.

Claim 9 (original): The plastic substrate according to Claim 5, wherein said plastic substrate contains, in a surface thereof, 100 or less rugged portions of $1\mu\text{m} \times 1\mu\text{m}$ or wider in area.

Claim 10 (original): The plastic substrate according to Claim 5, wherein:
a straightness, Pa, in the radial direction of said plastic substrate, is $1\mu\text{m}$ or less;
a micro-waviness of said plastic substrate is 500 \AA or lower; and
an average surface roughness of said plastic substrate is 5 \AA or lower.

Claim 11 (original): The plastic substrate according to Claim 9, wherein:
a straightness, Pa, in the radial direction of said plastic substrate, is $1 \mu\text{m}$ or less;
a micro-waviness of said plastic substrate is 500 \AA or lower; and
an average surface roughness of said plastic substrate is 5 \AA or lower.

Claim 12 (original): A magnetic recording medium comprising:
said plastic substrate according to Claim 5;
a magnetic layer above said plastic substrate;
a protection layer on said magnetic layer; and
a lubricant layer on said protection layer.

Claim 13 (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 12, wherein said plastic substrate contains, in a surface thereof, 100 or less rugged portions of $1\mu\text{m} \times 1\mu\text{m}$ or wider in area.

Claim 14 (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 12, wherein:
a straightness, Pa, in the radial direction of said plastic substrate, is $1\mu\text{m}$ or less;
a micro-waviness of said plastic substrate is 500 \AA or lower; and
an average surface roughness of said plastic substrate is 5 \AA or lower.

Claim 15 (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 13, wherein:
a straightness, Pa, in the radial direction of said plastic substrate, is 1 μm or less;
a micro-waviness of said plastic substrate is 500 \AA or lower; and
an average surface roughness of said plastic substrate is 5 \AA or lower.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 12, wherein an output of a strain gauge is 0.5 g or less at the end of continuous and high-speed head seek tests conducted for 24 hr on said magnetic recording medium, rotating at 4500 rpm using a low-flying-height head having a flying height of $1\mu\text{m}$;

wherein said output is a measure of resistance between the surface of the head and the surface of the protection layer.

Claims 17-22 (canceled)